

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated December 21, 2004.

Initially, it is noted that the Form PTO 1449, which was returned with the previous Office Action, indicated that references AM and AN were not considered because copies of the references were "not submitted." However, copies of the references were in fact submitted on December 1, 2004 along with the IDS. A copy of the PTO-stamped return receipt postcard is enclosed to establish that the references were submitted on December 1, 2004. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the previously submitted references (second set of copies enclosed). Also, for the Examiner's convenience, a Form PTO 1449 listing the references is provided.

Next, in the previous Office Action, claims 8-10 and 13-15 are rejected over the prior art; and claims 6, 7, 11, and 12 are allowed.

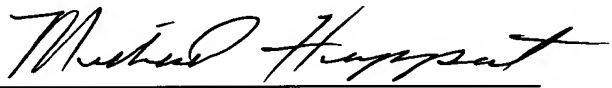
Accordingly, in order to expedite the prosecution in the present application, claims 8-10 and 13-15 are cancelled by the above amendment.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present application is now clearly in condition for allowance. The Examiner therefore is requested to pass this case to issue.

In the event that the Examiner has any comments or suggestions of a nature necessary to place this case in condition for allowance, then the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney by telephone to promptly resolve any remaining matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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